

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Tuesday, December 11, 2001

The House met at 12:30 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. OTTER).

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

*Washington, DC, December 11, 2001.*

I hereby appoint the Honorable C.L. "BUTCH" OTTER to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,

*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

### MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Monahan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment Concurrent Resolutions of the House of the following titles:

H. Con. Res. 88. Concurrent Resolution expressing the sense of the Congress that the President should issue a proclamation to recognize the contribution of the Lao-Hmong in defending freedom and democracy and supporting the goals of Lao-Hmong Recognition Day.

H. Con. Res. 272. Concurrent Resolution expressing the sense of Congress regarding the crash of American Airlines Flight 587.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed with an amendment in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 3338. An act making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate insists upon its amendment to the bill (H.R. 3338) "An Act making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, and for other purposes," requests a conference with the House on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses thereupon, and appoints Mr. INOUE, Mr. HOLLINGS, Mr. BYRD, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. REID, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. KOHL, Mr. STEVENS, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. BOND, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. SHELBY, Mr. GREGG, and Mrs. HUTCHISON, to be the conferees on the part of the Senate.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed concurrent resolutions of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. Con. Res. 73. Concurrent resolution expressing the profound sorrow of Congress for

the deaths and injuries suffered by first responders as they endeavored to save innocent people in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon on September 11, 2001.

S. Con. Res. 87. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress regarding the crash of American Airlines Flight 587.

S. Con. Res. 91. Concurrent resolution expressing deep gratitude to the government and the people of the Philippines for their sympathy and support since September 11, 2001, and for other purposes.

### MORNING HOUR DEBATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 3, 2001, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning hour debates. The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to not to exceed 30 minutes, and each Member, except the majority leader, the minority leader, or the minority whip, limited to not to exceed 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. STEARNS) for 5 minutes.

### SALUTING OUR MILITARY ON THE 3-MONTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SEPTEMBER 11 ATTACKS

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, today we come upon the 3-month anniversary of the tragic terrorist attacks of September 11. Numerous ceremonies will be conducted in remembrance of this day, reflecting upon the loss of life and the senseless attack against our freedom. What also deserves reflection, recognition, and honor is the response of those tasked to defend our country and right the terrible wrong that occurred 3 months ago.

On September 14 the Congress authorized the President to use all necessary and appropriate force in retaliation for the attacks of September 11. That same day the President began a partial mobilization of our forces for homeland defense, later dubbed "Operation Noble Eagle," with additional Guard and Reservists being called up over the next 2 months. Our response abroad became Operation Enduring Freedom. Upon the ruling Taliban's refusal to cooperate and hand over Osama bin Laden, our military sent a message, one that is being trumpeted by the administration today: if you provide aid and support to terrorists, you will find yourself on the wrong side of a very irate, heroic giant.

On October 7, our aircraft and warships, along with assistance from our allies, began systematically to eliminate suspected terrorist camps, air defense assets, and command and control installations. These attacks continued almost daily, which included the use of Special Forces aircraft such as the AC-130 gunship, providing devastating air-to-ground fire against Taliban military units.

Our Special Forces groups were on the ground early in October, assisting anti-Taliban fighters and calling in air strikes on frontline Taliban units. The dedication of our forces, the overwhelming firepower used, and the assistance of our allies has resulted in every major Taliban stronghold falling into the hands of the anti-Taliban forces.

The Taliban lost the pivotal town of Mazar-I-Sharif, and the capital city of Kabul fell to Northern Alliance forces by mid-November. The last Taliban stronghold in the north, Kunduz, fell by the end of November.

By December 7, despite Taliban promises to "fight to the death," the last major Taliban stronghold fell and remaining Taliban forces fled the city.

Our forces are now working with local fighters to root out the remaining Taliban and al Qaeda forces in the cave complexes in Tora Bora. This is an extraordinary achievement.

The success of Operation Enduring Freedom has enabled the United States to begin reestablishing a diplomatic presence, 12 years absent in Afghanistan, with Marine forces securing the former American embassy in Kabul. During the Taliban's rule, only three countries legitimately recognized the government and have eventually severed their ties.

Now, with Afghanistan under new leadership, several countries, including Britain, Russia, France, and India, are beginning the process of reestablishing diplomatic relations.

As the President has stated, this campaign against terrorism will not be a war of "instant gratification." Though our forces have succeeded in toppling the Taliban and ending its capability both as a military force and ruling authority, we are still engaged in action against remaining forces in the Afghan mountains. Further actions abroad to root out terrorism may well be necessary.

Our military has performed admirably. Our professional forces continue to demonstrate that they are the best in the world. Sadly, as with any military action, we have suffered casualties.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.